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Claims

1. A composition for use in the treatment, prevention or amelioration of animal stereotypy which comprises fat, fibre, and optionally a stomach antacid.

2. A pharmaceutical composition for use in the treatment, prevention or amelioration of animal stereotypy which comprises fat, fibre, and optionally a stomach antacid, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient or diluent.

3. A composition according to claim 1 or 2 in which the amount of fat in the composition is from about 5% to about 20%, preferably from about 8% to about 17%, by weight of the composition.

4. A composition according to any preceding claim in which the amount of crude fibre in the composition is from about 3.5% to about 35%, preferably from about 10% to about 25%, by weight of the composition.

5. A composition according to any preceding claim in which the amount of neutral detergent fibre in the composition is from about 15% to about 70%, preferably from about 25% to about 50%, by weight of the composition.

6. A composition according to any preceding claim in which at least some of the fibre is chopped fibre.

7. A composition according to claim 6 in which at least some of the chopped fibre is about 1-7cm long.

8. A composition according to any preceding claim in which the starch content of the composition is low, preferably below about 20% by weight of the composition.

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9. A composition according to any preceding claim in which the antacid inhibits secretion of acid in the stomach.

10. A composition according to claim 9 in which the antacid is a proton pump inhibitor such as omeprazole, or a histamine type-2 antagonist.

11. A method of treatment prevention or amelioration of animal stereotypy which comprises controlling the stomach pH of an animal.

12. A method according to claim 11 in which the stomach pH of the animal is controlled before any stereotypic behaviour performed by the animal becomes fixed.

13. A method according to claim 11 in which the stomach pH of the animal is controlled before, or shortly after, it develops any stereotypic behaviour.

14. A method according to claim 11, 12 or 13 in which the animal is a weaning, or recently weaned animal.

15. A method according to claim 11, 12 or 13 in which the animal is a weaned animal.

16. A method according to any of claims 11 to 14 in which the stomach pH of the animal is controlled from birth.

17. A method according to any of claims 11 to 16 in which the stomach pH of the animal is controlled by inhibiting secretion of acid in the stomach of the animal.

18. A method according to claim 17 in which the acid secretion is inhibited by administering a proton pump inhibitor, such as omeprazole, or a histamine type-2 antagonist to the animal.

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19. A method according to any of claims 11 to 18 in which the stomach pH of the animal is controlled by administering a composition according to any of claims 1 to 10 to the animal.

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20. A method according to claim 19 in which the composition is included in the animal's diet from birth.

21. A method according to claim 19 or 20 in which the composition is included in the diet of the animal's mother when she is lactating.

22. A method according to any of claims 19 to 21 in which the composition is included in feed and the said feed is fed to the animal as it is being weaned.

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23. A method according to any of claims 11 to 22 in which the stomach pH of the animal is controlled shortly before and/or during and/or following weaning, ingestion of a high grain diet, or a period of extended fasting by the animal.

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24. A method of treatment, prevention or amelioration of animal stereotypy which comprises preventing or reducing ulcer formation, or treating ulcers formed in the stomach of an animal.

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25. A method according to claim 24 in which ulcer formation is prevented or reduced, or ulcers are treated, by administering a composition according to any of claims 1 to 10 to the animal.

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26. Use of a composition comprising a stomach antacid in the manufacture of a medicament for the amelioration, treatment, or prevention of animal stereotypy.

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27. Use of a composition according to any of claims 1 to 10 in the manufacture of a medicament for the amelioration, treatment or prevention of animal stereotypy.

28. A method according to any of claims 11 to 25 or use according to claim 26 or 27 in which the animal is an equidae, a non-ruminant omnivore, or a non-ruminant herbivore.

29. A method or use according to claim 28 in which the animal is a horse.

30. A method or use according to claim 29 in which the stereotypy is crib-biting.

31. A composition substantially as described.

32. A pharmaceutical composition substantially as described.

33. A method substantially as described.

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